

# Safety Alert: Leaf Vacuum Trucks

## **WARNING!**

*Workers can be injured by  
leaf vacuum trucks*

### **The problem:**

- A 38-year old worker was killed when he was riding the trailer hitch between the truck and the leaf trailer. He was crushed by the trailer when he fell off the hitch.
- A 57-year old worker was killed when he was holding the vacuum controls and walking adjacent to the truck. He was crushed by the rear wheels of the truck.



**Workers Can Be Caught Under Wheels  
When Walking Next To Moving Vehicles**

### **What you can do:**

- Do NOT ride on trailer hitches.
- Do NOT walk in the area between the truck and the trailer. Stay in line-of sight of driver.
- Make sure all machine guards are covering moving parts, including: fan blades; PTO shafts; and grinders.
- Make sure that the vacuum hose is at least 8 feet long, so that a worker's hands will not contact blades or grinders if his arm is accidentally pulled into the hose.
- Look up! Make sure that the vacuum hose will not contact overhead power lines. Make sure that the leaf hopper will not contact overhead power lines when the hopper is tipped to be emptied.
- Wear high visibility-retroreflective clothing.
- Wear hearing protection when vacuum is operating.
- Use back-up alarms to alert workers when truck is moving backwards.

For more information: NIOSH: "Preventing Worker Injuries and Deaths from Moving Refuse Collection Vehicles." Pub No. 97-110. [www.cdc.gov/dols/niosh](http://www.cdc.gov/dols/niosh).

Workplace Safety for Municipal Employees: Massachusetts Workplace Safety and Health Program, Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards, 617-969-7177; [www.mass.gov/dols/mwshp](http://www.mass.gov/dols/mwshp).



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